

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14-18, 22-26, 28, 31-35, 39 and 40. The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 6, 8, 11-13, 19-21, 27, 29-30, and 36-38. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims 1-40.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 6, 8, 11-13, 19-21, 27, 29, 30 and 36-38 as allegedly being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has canceled claims 4, 6, and 8 and amended claims 1, 5, and 7. Thus, Applicant submits claims 1, 5, and 7 are in condition for allowance. Applicant has amended claim 1, from which claims 11-13 directly or indirectly depend. Thus, Applicant submits claims 11-13 are also in condition for allowance. Applicant has canceled claim 19. Applicant has amended claims 20 and 21, as well as claim 14 from which they depend. Thus, Applicant submits claims 20 and 21 are in condition for allowance. Applicant has canceled claim 27. Applicant has amended claim 29, as well as claim 22 from which claim 29 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 29 is in condition for allowance. Applicant has amended claims 22 and 29, from which claim 30 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 30 is also in condition for allowance. Applicant has amended claims 32 and 35, from which claim 36 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 36 is also in condition for allowance. Applicant has canceled claim 37. Applicant has amended claim 32, from which claim 38 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 38 is also in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-10, 14-18, 22-26, 28, 31-35 and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Willmann, et al. (U.S. Patent 5,521,923). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding claim 1, Applicant has amended claim 1. Applicant submits claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 2, Applicant has canceled claim 2.

Regarding claim 3, Applicant has canceled claim 3.

Regarding claim 5, Applicant has amended claim 5. Applicant submits claim 5 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 7, Applicant has amended claim 7. Applicant submits claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 9, Applicant has amended claim 9 and claim 1, from which claim 9 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 10, Applicant has amended claim 9 and claim 1, from which claim 10 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 10 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 14, Applicant has amended claim 14. Applicant submits claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 15, Applicant has amended claim 14, from which claim 15 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 15 is also in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 16, Applicant has amended claim 14, from which claim 16 indirectly depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 16 is also in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 17, Applicant has amended claim 14, from which claim 17 indirectly depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 17 is also in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 18, Applicant has amended claim 14, from which claim 18 indirectly depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 18 is also in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 22, Applicant has amended claim 22. Applicant submits claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 23, Applicant has amended claim 22, from which claim 23 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 23 is also in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 24, Applicant has amended claim 24 and claim 22, from which claim 24 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 24 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 25, Applicant has canceled claim 25.

Regarding claim 26, Applicant has amended claim 22, from which claim 26 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 26 is also in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 28, Applicant has amended claim 22, from which claim 28 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 28 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 31, Applicant has amended claim 22, from which claim 31 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 31 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 32, Applicant has amended claim 32. Applicant submits claim 32 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 33, Applicant has canceled claim 33.

Regarding claim 34, Applicant has amended claim 32, from which claim 34 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 34 is also in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 35, Applicant has amended claim 32, from which claim 35 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 35 is also in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 39, Applicant has amended claim 32, from which claim 39 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 39 is also in condition for allowance.

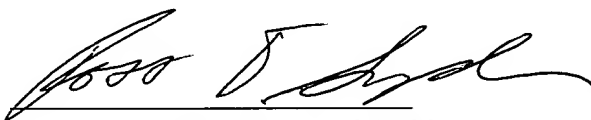
Regarding claim 40, Applicant has amended claim 32, from which claim 40 depends. Thus, Applicant submits claim 40 is also in condition for allowance.

In conclusion, Applicant has overcome all of the Office's rejections, and early notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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